



## **Multimodal Transportation Commission Minutes**

**Regular Meeting  
February 24, 2016**

---

### **Attending:**

**Commission Members:** Bruce Emory, Chair, Terri March, Vice-Chair; Philip Lenowitz, Till Dohse, Mary Weber, Don Kostelec, Jim Grode, Kristy Carter, Rich Lee.

**Commission Members Absent:** John Ridout and Josh O'Conner.

**Council Liaison:** Gwen Wisler.

**Staff Members:** Ken Putnam, Mariate Echeverry, Janet GeorgeMurr, Jackie Behoriam, Dan Baechtold, Vadilla Satvika, Lucy Crown.

**Community Members:** Geoff Kemmish, and Kim Roney.

**Called Meeting To Order:** Bruce Emory opened the meeting and welcomed members, staff and public.

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

**February 24, 2016 – Agenda:** Commission member Mary Weber requested to add Beaucatcher Greenway update to the agenda. Commission member Bruce Emory also added to the agenda Announcements, and Council Liaison Gwen Wisler requested to add transit fare free day on voting day to the agenda. Commission member Bruce Emory motioned to approve; Commission member Till Dohse second and carried unanimously.

**January 27, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes:** A couple of corrections to be made to the minutes- Jim Grode should not be listed as rotating off in July, and the MMTTC Policy Recommendations have already been reformatted and sent to Council. Commission member Bruce Emory motioned to approve, Commission Member Till Dohse second.

**Public Comment I:** None

**Presentations:** None

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. **Management Company RFP:** Mariate Echeverry stated that the RFP has been released. They recently had the pre-bid meeting, and a total of five companies attended. Proposals are due by mid-March, and they are still on schedule for July 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. **AIM update:** Mariate reported that the staff is currently reviewing a first draft report for the consultants. In addition they are working on a visualization tool to aid in the presentation to the public. Once it is ready, they will release the report for public comment- tentatively March or April of this year. The consultants will also be coming in March for a presentation, and the final report will be posted on various social media interfaces for public comment.
3. **I-26 Update:** Ken Putnam stated that the NCDOT and its consultant met on January 25, 2016 to review the public hearing that was held on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2015. Comments were received through various mediums by Federal, State, and Local agencies, as well as special interest groups. Multimodal comments were the most common subject matter. A total of 1,482 comments were received with 34% were in favor of the project, 54% were opposed.
4. **Beaucatcher Greenway Update:** Commission member Mary Weber clarified several questions raised at the previous meeting regarding Beaucatcher Greenway. Mary revealed that the greenway does not go up Windswept Rd., and the City has confirmed that they do have the right of way on Ardmion Rd. The greenway will stop at the parking lot and will be marked by a trailhead. The greenway then comes out on Beaucatcher- at this particular location Mary noted that there is 5ft. of sidewalk and two handicapped parking spaces. At the Sky Club there will not be any encroachment on the existing road and to build an 8ft path adjacent to the road with a rail separating from vehicular traffic and held up by a 2 to 5 ft retaining wall. In addition, there are several trees that are flagged, most of which is for surveying purposes only, and will not be removed. The greenway has 3 areas that are on road, but the majority remains off road. There have been concerns regarding the on road portions, but it is not feasible to stay completely off road. Mary also added that on March 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a public meeting for the French Broad West Greenway, and one for Beaucatcher Greenway on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings will be from 5:30-7:30PM at Lord Auditorium at Park Library. Geoff Kemmish commented on this stating that people were surprised by this- people across Skyview were not informed that the retaining wall to prevent cars from

“slamming into houses” is being removed. Geoff further expressed his concern that the section by Beaumont is very dangerous.

5. Fare Free Day on Election Day: Council Liaison Gwen Wisler brought forth the issue of having Fare Free Day on Election Day to the Commission’s attention, wanting to further explore options to encourage voting. Gwen questioned the effectiveness of this decision, her reason being that voters must vote at a Precinct only on Election Day, and they are not accessible by bus. Several of the Commission members were also concerned about the financial implications and effectiveness of having a Fare Free Day. After much discussion, the Commission members agreed that any recommendation made (by the Commission) would be contingent to encouraging people to vote. Commission member Till Dohse motioned that Transit Committee, and Staff researches this further and to ensure that outreach efforts are made to communicate the promotion to the public. The Commissioners stated that if city staff cannot explicitly say in the marketing materials that this is to promote voting, they do not think they should pursue this further. These efforts should target the November election. Commission member Don Kostelec seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business:**

1. Candidates for Transit Seat on MMTC: Commission member Bruce Emory stated that there were 11 applications, 9 of which were from last year (in response to the MMTC seat), and 2 were submitted recently in response to specifically the Transit seat. It was suggested that the Transit Committee would review applications and make a recommendation, and then MMTC would make theirs. However, Bruce noted that since position closed on February 4<sup>th</sup>, the process has been reversed. MMTC will be making a recommendation, and then the Transit Committee will decide. Some of the Commission members noted that only a few of the candidates expressed interest in specifically Transit, whereas the others were more interested in the At Large position. After some discussion Mariate revealed that this may be due to the fact that when these applications were submitted, it was originally for the At Large position, so interest in specifically Transit may not have been expressed. The Commission then proceeded to vote, with the following outcome: Adam Charnack- 7, Kim Roney- 4, Rich Rozzelle- 2, Kelly Prime- 1. Commission member Till Dohse motioned to forward the top two names to the City Council; Commission member Jim Grode second, and carried unanimously.

2. TIGER Project Updates: Dan Baechtold gave an update on the TIGER VI transportation projects. All preconstruction activities must be completed by June 30, 2016. All designs are currently at a 75% completion level, and the projects will begin construction in 2017. Dan added the City will receive updated cost estimates in the next couple of months, and will refine the budget.

3. Cross Access as Specified by Comp. Plan: Mariate informed the Commission that there were no updates at this time, but they will be available in March; at which time they will be presented, possibly by someone from planning. Vadilla Satvika also mentioned that the current Comp. Plan recommends cross access.

4. Open Streets: Commission member Terri March stated that a small group including City and MPO staff are developing an open streets plan. The planned date is September 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. An event will be held, which will include various social engagements and mock up, all of which will encourage public feedback. The details of the event are still forming.

5. School Location/I-26: Commission member Don Kostelec reported that there was a lot of public feedback, and the school board is going to make a decision on transition options soon. Don also noted that there seemed to be a lack of contact between transportation decisions and the school. However the Comp. Plan is keeping Transportation issues in mind. Commission member Rich Lee suggested that the Commission draft a letter and bring it to the School Board’s attention. After some discussion Commission member Bruce Emory made a motion to have Commission members, Don, Rich, and Kristy write a letter expressing their concerns regarding transportation matters.

**Announcements:** Commission member Bruce Emory announced that Rich Lee volunteered for the MPO training session. Mariate stated that Livingston St. had a public meeting; it went well, with a good turnout.

### **General Committee Updates:**

1. Greenway Committee – There were three speakers at the previous meeting. They also discussed policies regarding planting native plants along greenways.

2. Bike/Ped Task Force – Discussed snow removal options.

3. Neighborhood Advisory Committee – Met with Regions of Neighborhoods, and will meet with the Neighborhood leaders on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 at Public Works from 7-9PM.

4. Transit Committee – Anthony Mitchell was elected Vice Chair.

**Staff Updates:** None

**Review of MMTC Goals:** None

**Public Comment II: None**

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None**

**Meeting Adjourned: 5:05pm**